

Certification Corner: Countdown to the First Certification Exam!

by George P. Kousaleos
National Certification Council Chair



The dates have been set! The first National Certification Examination will be given on Saturday, June 27, 1992; the second on Saturday, December 12, 1992.

The Examination Committee will serve as an umbrella committee for all examination development. The Committee will work directly with the Psychological Corporation, the testing company selected to develop and administer the examination. The Committee also will provide information to the Council and the future Board. The members of the Examination Committee are: Dorothy Schwartzberg (Chair), Raymond Castellino, Susan Hollister, Katy Huff, Jeffrey Maitland, and Wayne O. Sickels.

Listed below is important information excerpted from the official *Candidate Handbook*. The handbook, which contains more detailed information as well as applications for the exam, will be sent to all AMTA and Federation members in the upcoming weeks.

Examination Fees

The fee for the examination will be \$150.00. Applications and fees are due one month prior to the examination date. For specific fee and application deadline information, please consult the handbook.

Examination Sites

42 national sites, located near general populations of massage and

bodywork practitioners, have been chosen for all future examinations. Most examinations will be held in college auditoriums or testing facilities. The Psychological Corporation has an extensive network of proctors who will administer the exam. If a site is not available in a rural or distant area and one or more candidates from that area wish to be tested, a special examination site can be arranged. An additional charge of \$150.00 will be added per new site.

Eligibility Standards

The following criteria determine the eligibility of a candidate to sit for the examination. The *Candidate Handbook* explains the criteria in greater detail.

I. Grandmothering: During the first two years of the National Certification Examination (1992 & 1993), any practitioner who has been in practice for a minimum of one year may sit for the examination. Candidates must submit a signed affidavit to that effect.

II. Point System: 50 points earned in any one of the following categories, or combination of categories, will qualify a candidate to sit for the examination.

A. Education: This category includes formal school training, apprenticeships, workshops, and seminars. Ten "clock hours" equal one point. A "clock hour" equals 50 minutes of supervised instruction. Example: Graduation from a 500

hour program earns 50 points, fulfilling all eligibility requirements. A 150 hour program earns 15 points. Points cannot be earned for educational programs of less than 100 hours.

B. License or Registration: This category includes state, municipal, or sovereign state licensing or registration which mandates an educational requirement and the successful completion of an examination. The candidate must hold an active license in good standing. An equivalent number of points will be granted for educational requirements and successful completion of the licensure examination. Example: a license that requires 250 hours of education and passing the licensing examination earns 50 points.

C. Professional Experience and Practice: A maximum of 30 points can be earned through professional experience and practice. Each year of professional practice earns 7.5 points. One year of practice is defined as a minimum of 400 sessions or treatments. Here, too, a signed affidavit to that effect must be submitted. Example: four years of professional experience with not less than 400 sessions or treatments per year will earn 30 points. This provision will terminate four years from the date of the first examination.

III. Code of Ethics: All candidates must sign a Professional Code of Ethics contained in the *Candidate Handbook*.

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Regional Conferences

Rocky Mountain Visions

Don't miss out on this opportunity to get a whole new view on things. Join the **Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico Chapters** as well as the hosting **Utah Chapter** in Park City, Utah for the second annual **Southwest Regional Conference** on August 13-16, 1992.

Exciting presentations will be made by AMTA President **Elliot Greene**, Keynote Speaker; Immediate Past President **Robert King**; and **Jim Oliver** who will talk about Music Therapy. Many other topics will be covered: Aromatherapy, Visualization Therapy, Oriental Bodywork, and Herbology and Nutrition.

A western dance with a live band will provide fun and entertainment for all!

Escape the heat and come to beautiful Park City, a resort community which lies at 7000 feet in the Rockies. Activities abound and

there's something for everybody. For the more adventurous there's hot-air ballooning and for those who prefer to stay on the ground there's hiking, biking and golf. For information and registration contact:

Carol Kuntzelman
PO Box 681377
Park City, UT 84060
(801) 649-5565 office
(801) 649-8586 home

California Presents...

The California Chapter is holding its annual State Convention March 19-22 at the Irvine Radisson Hotel in Irvine, CA. This is a special Convention for the Chapter as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year. The Convention will feature nine hands-on workshops as well as over 40 exhibitors. Saturday night's entertainment will be provided by "Dr. Rock," a band put together by five physicians.

For information and a convention brochure call Lorraine Coneby at (408) 365-7401. ♦



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Field Tests

On Saturday, January 25, the Psychological Corporation conducted field tests in five cities. The tests help to determine the final test format by providing valuable data on the questions and the layout. Invitations were mailed to a cross-section of practitioners and the first 50 to volunteer were selected. Field test participants did not receive scores, nor did they become nationally certified.

Official Designation

The name chosen for the designation is still under review. The Certification Council has been soliciting input from the profession and will meet at the end of April. By the first examination, an appropriate designation will be chosen. ♦

The *Candidate Handbook* provides more detailed information on these items. Start looking for your copy toward the end of March. If you fail to receive the handbook, contact Education Administrator Sharon Brown at (312) 761-2682.